This World of Ours has no Inheritor

The morning papers were full of bad news - natural disasters, traffic accidents in the air and on the roads, war clouds gathering in diverse corners of the world.....

One of the regular visitors brought up the topic a bit seriously and half jocularly. "Shri Maharaj", he said, "you must have read the newspapers this morning - nothing but the most depressing news. I am just not prepared to accept that dynamic like you are really quite so helpless in the matter - surely, you can do something better to control the natural disasters and also to change the very thinking of the people who particularly have the power to control the happenings in the world; so that the world as a whole can occasionally show a smile on its face!"

"Curiously enough", said Shri Maharaj, "I am generally not seriously interested in what happens in this dream world. But this morning, the news is particularly bad and I did have some thoughts in the matter, and do you know what my concluding thought was? It was just this: This world of ours is in such a deplorable state only because it has no inheritor! Do you know what I mean? If a property has an inheritor, he is bound to take some interest to ensure that it is flourishes and is generally kept in a reasonably good condition. If there is no prospective inheritor, the chances are that it will be neglected and go to seed. That is how I see the condition of this world of ours. Everyone is trying to make the most of whatever he thinks he has, and there is no overall supervision and control: there is no prospective inheritor!

"Consider the matter even from the material, dualistic point of view. There have been so many avatars and God-men and Bhagawans in this world over a certain period. Has any one of them been able to make the slightest essential & permanent change for the what is generally considered as the good of the world? So many

religions and sects and sub-sects have been established but has there been any real change (eg. in the essential nature of the five natural elements?) for the better? With the deadliest possible destructive instruments in his hands, man is now ready to blow this world to smithereens any moment. I am told even a group of ordinary people without too many monetary resources can now prepare an atom bomb and hold large sections of society to ransome. The only reason for this state of affairs, I conclude, is that this world has no inheritor!

"If you consider why this world has no inheritor, will you not, even dialectically, come to the conclusion that this world, this universe of ours, is contained in that speck of consciousness which each sentient being is 'blessed' with?! Is there anything any one can do about one's nightmare — other than 'awakening' to the fact that it was 'only' a nightmare?! Is there really any universe other than you, other than 'I'? If all sentient beings were to lose their sentience for any length of time, could there be any world at all?

"All that one can do is to appreciate that the phenomenal world cannot be anything other than an APPEARANCE in consciousness — the totality of the human in the immensity of the environs. The world can be said to APPEAR but not BE!